

MINUTES  
COUNCIL ON RECYCLING  
JANUARY 30, 2006  
CASCADE ASSET MANAGEMENT  
6701 MANUFACTURERS DRIVE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

**Council Members Present:** Jeff Fielkow; Neil Peters-Michaud; John Piotrowski; John Reindl; Cecelia Stencil; William Swift; Charlotte Zieve

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Also attending:** Cynthia Moore, DNR; Ken Nwankwo, DOT; Joe Van Rossum, SHWEC.

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 9:00 AM

**Introductions and Announcements:** John Reindl said that there are at least 12 bills in the legislature on solid waste issues. The legislature has its last general floor period ending in early May, but several lobbyists have told him that this last session will be for high priority bills only and that the last floor period for other legislation ends in early March. Bills that have not had a hearing by this time are said to be not likely to be adopted. The only major solid waste bill that that had a hearing is one on DNR citation authority for open burning. It appears unlikely that any of other bills will pass. Reindl said he sent a letter to Sen. Kedzie on the Council's behalf about Sen. Miller's legislation on e-waste. At least two other letters have been sent as well. He has not heard a reply. Cynthia Moore said that the tipping fee bill will have a hearing in February.

Reindl said that the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force met on January 11<sup>th</sup>. They heard about the budgetary process. The DNR is already shaping their budget for 2007-09. If you have any ideas you think DNR should consider you should contact DNR now. The Task Force also heard from James Cornwell from CRT Recycling about recycling cathode ray tubes.

Reindl said the Task Force has broken up into 3 work groups.

Land use work group: Their priority is regulation of smaller management facilities, including C&D landfills, and open burning.

Waste reduction and recycling: They identified 12 materials to focus on, including C&D, mixed paper, commercial waste and business waste.

Economics workgroup: Environmental valuation includes external and societal costs. Tally up the costs you pay as well as costs to society and incorporate all that into the price of the product. The governor's charge was to come up with a recommendation on the total cost of solid waste management.

The next meeting is February 22 in southeastern Wisconsin.

**Minutes:** Approval of the Minutes of October 25, 2005. Cecelia Stencil moved, Bill Swift seconded. Minutes approved without amendment.

**Reports**

**DNR:** Moore said that the DNR recycling staff is recommending a change in the formula in the upcoming budget. The staff is also looking at expanding the program and at possible incentive programs for recycling. Any initiatives would be funded by the current recycling tipping fees and surcharges. If you have any suggestions please contact Moore.

The legislature will hold a hearing on the bill to increase the tipping fee. DNR will testify at the hearing

The DNR has sent out letters on notification by haulers to generators on recycling requirements. Moore said she is pleased with the response.

DNR now has an online MRF reporting certification program.

The DNR will issue Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for nonprofits to assist businesses in waste reduction and recycling. The DNR has about \$180,000 for this program. The RFP's will probably be on organics and C&D.

The DNR is working with UW-GB on a study to determine how well the industry can ramp up if the e-waste legislation succeeds. The study will also look at the impact of this sector on the economy.

Moore said the DNR is part of a Midwest workgroup developing a regional approach to e-waste recycling. The group consists of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Michigan. The workgroup has developed model legislation that would have manufacturers pay for the recycling. The products covered would be TV's, desktop and personal computers and video display devices. Following years would include printers DVD players and VCR's. The focus was narrowed to make it easier to get a system in place. The manufacturers would pay a third party organization (TPO). The TPO would be authorized to accept fees and disburse them to recycler. It is an unusual approach and there are a lot of details to be worked out. The TPO would have a board consisting of interested parties. The 10-state Northeast Recycling Coalition (NERC) is interested in our approach and may join in. The web site is hosted by the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance. Zieve said a national program was best. Peters-Michaud said that he did not see the federal government acting on this issue. Swift said he thought someone outside government should be in charge of any program. Peters-Michaud asked if it had to be exactly the same in all states. Moore said that the core principles had to be in place. There could be tweaks in each state. Peters-Michaud asked if she expected the budget to be cut. Moore said that the recycling fund was generating a surplus and these programs would be paid for out of that fund.

**Paper:** John Piotrowski said that he worked on the draft resolution with others in the industry. He had questions about impact of recent hurricanes on the chemical supply industry, the timeline and how to differentiate between friendly adhesives and the others. The mills won't sort because of the cost. The benefit is that the burden of the stickies to the paper mills will be reduced. At his mill they have about an 8% reject rate. 80% of their stream is preconsumer. The problems could be from the label or the tape or from glues inside the box that helps it keep its shape.

Piotrowski said that the problems of their suppliers need to be considered as well. Reindl said that this is an issue of not designing for recyclability at end of life. Fielkow said that there are some mills don't have much problem. Reindl said that the Post Office has adopted a new adhesive that is easier on the equipment. The challenge is to get more companies to adopt that adhesive. The Tag and Label Council is pushing its members to use the new adhesive. The new adhesive is reported to be price competitive.

Piotrowski said another problem is that some applications need the stickier type of glue. The new glue may not have the properties that some companies need. Reindl said that issue came up in the plastic bottle industry and the glue was changed.

Piotrowski said that there is no screenability standard. Companies use different screens depending upon how fine the material needs to be for the product they are manufacturing.

Piotrowski said the safety aspect has to be considered as well.

Piotrowski said that he supports the idea of raising awareness of the issue. He suggested that we invite Avery or 3M or some other major manufacturer to discuss the issue with the Council. Reindl agreed and Piotrowski said he would contact someone from the industry.

Peters-Michaud suggested that a logo be developed that would identify the glue as environmentally friendly. That would help drive the sales of the new adhesives.

Piotrowski said that radio frequency identification devices (RFID) may be a problem. They are used as a tracking system and they are made out of copper and silver. They have not been a problem yet but they are just coming into wider use. Fielkow said that he does not know of any loads rejected so far because of RFID's.

Piotrowski will talk to Tag and Label manufacturers and find out what they are doing.

**Electronics:** Peters-Michaud said that dumping in Africa is continuing. Some companies are openly promoting this activity. He thinks the state should take a stronger stand. One way is to look at state procurement activities. Guidelines should be written into the contracts to ensure that

the state's electronics are not dumped overseas. Reindl suggested that the Council invite someone from DOA to talk about contracting. Moore suggested that the Council invite someone from Surplus With A Purpose (SWAP). SWAP is a state run operation that allows state agencies to reuse discards from other agencies. If the e-waste is not used it goes to Badger State Industries. Peters-Michaud said that this is something that can and should be done. The state needs to step up. Reindl said that Eileen Norby, UW-System, will be at AROW. He will ask her to attend the Council meeting.

**Mercury in Products:** Reindl said that environmental groups are just starting to focus on mercury in products. They have historically focused on mercury from sources such as power plants. He said that the Council on Great Lakes Governor's have sent a letter to President Bush concerning a number of issues. One of them was eliminating mercury in products whenever possible. They are also asking for take back programs, such as clean sweeps and for development of a comprehensive mercury product stewardship strategy. This is part of a package on saving the Great Lakes. Reindl said there are several bills in the legislature but it does not appear that any will be enacted.

Piotrowski said he was developing a mercury plan for his company. They are looking at ways to reduce mercury. There is naturally occurring mercury in wood chips. Every MPDS permit holder has the same obligation to either reduce mercury water discharge or reduce the total mercury mass balance. Fielkow says the research is in and it is time to develop a position paper. The Council should focus on how to reduce mercury in products. Joe Van Rossum said that the water regulations are pushing the mercury issue. It may be a good time to develop a plan to collect or cut back on mercury products. Piotrowski said that the energy situation may lead to more people replacing their mercury thermostats with digital. It may be a good time for an education program on how to dispose of mercury thermometers.

Reindl said that the Council should decide on an educational approach or legislative approach or a combination. He said that 12-13 million thermostats are replaced annually in the US. He said he would put together a strategy statement that includes a mix of education, purchasing, statutory changes, expanded collection opportunities and funding. Reindl said that Chippewa County has an excellent program for fluorescent lamps as do several other communities.

**Clean Sweep:** Fielkow said that Milwaukee has opened a permanent clean sweep site. A permanent site is very beneficial. He said this is a good case study. He said he would ask Rick Meyer to attend a meeting and have him talk about how the program was set up, fee structure, what they take, etc. The funding for the program comes from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District. They did good outreach with a simple message. They also have eight mobile collections during the year. He said that Onyx was the provider and he could ask them to talk about their involvement as well. Van Rossum said that a lot of people who run clean sweeps will be at the AROW conference. He will ask them to attend the Council meeting in Stevens Point. He will put together a list of people who may be available. Reindl said he talked to Roger Springman, DATCP, and Elaine Andrews, UW-Extension. Fielkow said that there are two basic questions. 1) What is your program? 2) How is it funded? Reindl said that the clean sweep funding provided by DATCP is from the recycling fund. Many local communities would like to see more funds sent to the program.

**Calumet County Towns Association Resolution:** Stencil said that a resolution was presented at the Wisconsin Towns Association that would require manufacturers to adapt and use recyclable plastic for their plastic needs or buy back non-recyclable plastic in the amounts they use. Fielkow said that right now there is more demand than supply. Even blended has good value. Stencil said that some areas cannot find outlets for their plastic. Their haulers will not take them. Reindl said that the markets vary. The response may be to help the areas that don't have outlets to find markets. Moore said that 90% can be recycled. Reindl said the technology has changed and more is able to be recycled. Fielkow said it depends on the plants' equipment. Van Rossum said that Calumet County wants to do the right thing. They need to talk to their vendor when they do their next contract. Part of the problem is getting a marketable quantity of the less used

plastics. Reindl said he would respond to Calumet County and suggest that they talk to Van Rossum about contracts.

**Public Comment:** Ken Nwankwo said DOT is encouraging recycling. Vendors are looking for uses. DOT does not do the actual bids but encourages contractors to include recycled materials in their bids. DOT does do the specifications and has expanded the number of materials that can be used. Reindl said that the Wisconsin DOT is a national leader in allowing recycled materials to be used in road projects.

Moore said that DNR and SHWEC has produced a 5-minute video called 'Recycling: Too Valuable to Waste'. Moore suggested other issues to discuss: 1) Plastic film used in agriculture and 2) Glass. Reindl said that all recyclables have gone up in value except glass. There is no real solution. There are no significant environmental savings. It will probably not ever rise in value. DOT uses it for drainage and for roadbed. Moore said that DNR allows several beneficial uses. There has been quite a bit of public resistance to taking glass out of the recycling stream. Fielkow said that glass should stay in the mix. The markets are strong and steady. As energy costs go up, recycled glass is more attractive. There are also alternatives for lower grades as well. He said that glass should continue to be a part of the program.

#### **Other Business**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 12:30 PM, Friday, March 3, 2006 at the AROW/SWANA/WCSWMA Annual Winter Training Conference at the Holiday Inn, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point.

**Adjournment:** Zieve moved and Swift seconded. The Council adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Upon adjournment the Council toured the Cascade Asset Management facility.

Respectfully submitted by Daniel B. Fields, Department of Natural Resources.